



## Minutes

Friday, May 17, 2013

1:00 pm

Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka  
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

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### Present

Patricia Arney (Chair)	Margaret Casey	Louise Cragg
Patsy Cross	Lou Guerriero	Jack Hepworth
Piret Hurrell	Steve Inniss	Caroline Konarzewski
Richard Lammers	Anna Mallin	Mary McCulley
Jan McDonnell	Ruth Nishikawa	Peter Sale
Peter Seybold	Paul Stueck	Ian Turnbull
Debbie Vernon		

### Regrets

Allyn Abbott	Scott Aitchison	Shane Baker
Nic Bell	Lola Bratty	Tom Clark
George Crawford	Gord Henderson	Neil Hutchinson
Brian McElwain	Don McVittie	Greg Mierle
Rob Milligan	Steve Munro	Michael Peppard
Geoff Ross	Al Shaw	Paul Wiancko
Scott Young		

### Staff

Judi Brouse	Rebecca Willison	Samantha Hastings
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### Guests

Arran Brown	Norm Yan	John Cooper
Katherine Seybold	Chris Wray	Eleanor Lewis
Ken Black		

### Welcome

Patricia Arney called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Patricia provided an update on the health of Ben Boivin. A card will be sent to him from MWC. Steve Taylor will not be presenting the MRWMP.

### Confirmation of Minutes

**MOTION** by Lou Guerriero, seconded by Piret Hurrell

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated April 19, 2013 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### Correspondence

- [How Much Habitat is Enough?](#) 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Environment Canada

## Presentation

[The Impact of Road Salt on Lakes in Muskoka](#) – Arran Brown, CWN, Student Researcher, York University

In regards to a question about turning the research into action, Norm Yan indicated that he is applying for a CWN Knowledge Mobilization grant to help do this.

Patricia thanked Arran for his presentation.

[Flood 2013: A General Review](#) – Patricia Arney, MRWMP Standing Advisory Committee and Richard Lammers

- The 2013 flood is the third highest for peak flows recorded. Highest was in 1923 and second highest in 1985.
- Fall floods are likely much more damaging than spring floods.
- What can MWC do to educate the public about avoiding some of the issues that occurred with the flooding in the future? Louise Cragg was impressed with the water level data available from the MNR online.
- Amphibians seem to be benefitting from the extra water this year i.e. hearing more species in new areas.
- Margaret Casey would like MWC to advocate that municipalities have a reserve fund for climate change infrastructure.
- Ruth Nishikawa would like MWC to get involved in bylaw reviews and encourage development to happen further than 200 ft from the water.

## Chair's Items

- New and temporary office locations – Temporary office space for MWC will be located at the District of Muskoka. A permanent location is close to being finalized.
- Lessons Learned Workshop – Waterloo Summit Centre on the Environment – May 25<sup>th</sup>
- MSC presentations are posted on the MWC website.
- Patricia encouraged all MWC members to become members of FMW and FMW is looking for a membership chair.
- Member bios for website – Member biographies and photos for the website should be sent to Rebecca at [willison@muskokawatershed.org](mailto:willison@muskokawatershed.org). The biographies received to date are available at <http://www.muskokawatershed.org/about-us/council-committees/muskoka-watershed-council/>.

## Activity Report

- *May 2013 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.
  - **Executive Committee** – Samantha Hastings has joined the Executive Committee as the DMM liaison, replacing Marg French.
  - **Policy & Research Committee** – Student paper on Phosphorus in Over Threshold Lakes has been received.
  - **Strategic Directions** – The online reporting form for the Wetland Survey is live. A meeting will be held on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Communications** – Steve Inniss reported on MWC's communications initiatives. People are encouraged to write articles for the MWC column in The Muskokan newspaper.

### **Updates and New Business**

- Patsy Cross reported that the IJC has released a report that recommends that a return of 10 inches be undertaken in Lake Huron. The next step is to convince the government to follow through with the recommendations. The majority of GBA money this year is going to study the economic impacts of low water levels on Georgian Bay.
- Peter Seybold reported that the MLA water quality program is underway and that they are working closer with the Lake Partner program.

### **Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, June 21, 2013 in the Torrance Community Centre in Torrance.

### **Adjournment**

Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.